

2003 COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



Rural Rustic Road Program Team

*Innovation & Quality
Improvement*

Central Office and
Staunton District

Team Members

Jim Givens and Jerry VanLear, P.E.

Sometimes a good idea needs champions to make it come to fruition. Jerry VanLear and Jim Givens filled that role ably when it came to supporting and testing a new philosophy for paving rural secondary roads. Because of their foresight and resolve, the Rural Rustic Roads program will save the state millions of dollars, while providing a highly desired service to residents of rural areas.

VDOT administrators had been reluctant to embrace reduced standards for secondary road improvements. Only Jerry's and Jim's persistence led them to see the value of the new program. In the summer of 2002, Jerry identified six projects in Augusta County with 7.5 miles of unpaved secondary roads that would serve as a test for the program. As he worked with residency and county staff, all six roads were completed on schedule and within budget—at a cost of about 12 percent of traditional methods. It was an impressive success.

But only as Jim pushed for the new program did the doors of change open. Jim established meetings with the Resident Engineer Committee, addressed issues that had to be dealt with by VDOT engineers, and communicated efforts VDOT was making to members of the General Assembly. His relationship with the sponsors of legislation for the new program gained enough time for VDOT to develop it properly. Because of Jim's and Jerry's leadership, the department has created a program that showcases its ability to innovate, while saving money and pleasing the public it serves.

Nominated by: Dennis Morrison

